



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Whether or not a woman has regular screenings for breast cancer is often influenced by her income level. Scientific studies have shown that in order for breast cancer screening to be most effective, older women should have a mammogram at least every two years.

The 1997 California Women's Health Survey collected data on frequency of having mammograms, reason for having one, and income level. Women who have had breast cancer and women less than age 40 were excluded

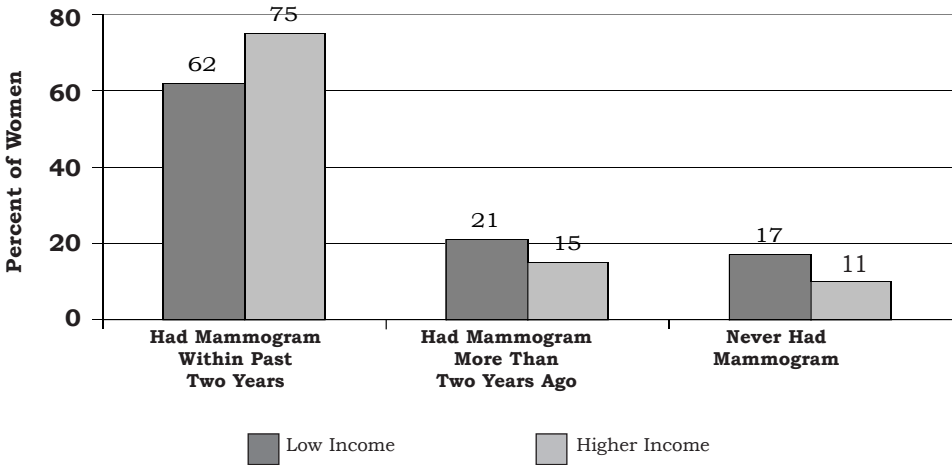
from this analysis. Low income women are defined as those women who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

- Fewer low income women had a mammogram within the past two years compared with higher income women (62% vs. 75%).
- More low income women have never had a mammogram when compared with higher income women (17% vs. 11%).

MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING AMONG WOMEN AGE 40 AND OLDER, BY INCOME STATUS; CALIFORNIA, 1997

Cancer Control Branch

Percent of Women Who Had a Mammogram, Never Had a Mammogram, By Income Status; California, 1997



Note: Low-income women are defined as women who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Public Health Message:

Fewer low income women than higher income women have had a mammogram within the past two years. Messages concerning mammography need to be directed toward low income women.

Issue 1, Number 20, Fall 1999
Second Printing